

Approaches to Learning



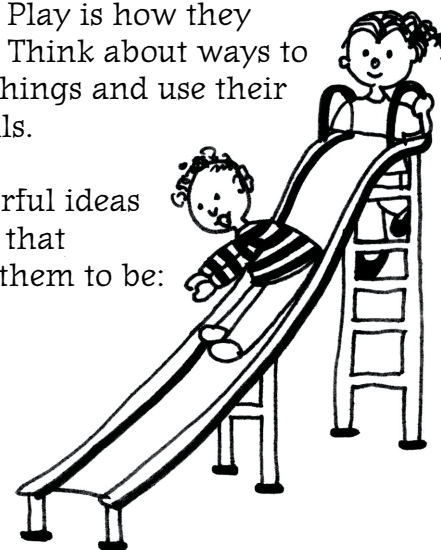
All About Learning

All children can learn and be successful. As parents we soon discover that children learn in very different ways. Over time you begin to discover how your own child learns best and recognize your child's unique learning style.

Children learn best through play. Play is how they make sense of a grown-up world. Think about ways to encourage your child to try new things and use their past experiences to learn new skills.

These cards are filled with wonderful ideas that will help your child discover that learning is fun as you encourage them to be:

- curious
- persistent
- self-organized and
- problem-solvers



Books Your Child Will Enjoy

Cars and Trucks and Things That Go
by Richard Scarry

Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown

The Foot Book by Dr. Seuss

Barnyard Dance! by Sandra Boynton

The Complete Tales by Beatrix Potter

Curious George by H. A. Rey

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards

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Curiosity

Is your child a bundle of questions? "Why do birds sing? How do you make ketchup? Where does this road go?" Curiosity is an important aspect of how children learn. Have fun answering the questions together.

Questions, Questions and More Questions

- **Provide** your child with new experiences...
Go to the park, walk on a trail, play on the beach or take a bus ride. Talk about what you see, hear and smell and notice the people and things around you.
- **Ask** questions as you explore and experience new things...
Choose questions that begin with "Why" or "What" to get your child thinking.
- **Encourage** your child to ask questions of you...
When your child is asking questions, encourage your **child** to think of the answer. Say, "What do you think?" and then see if you can discover the answer together.



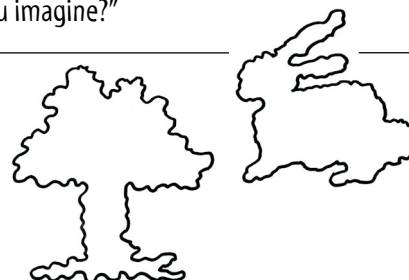
Approaches to Learning 1.1



Family Favorite

WHAT DO YOU SEE?

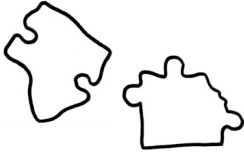
You and your child can lie down on the grass, gaze up at the sky and ask one another, "What do you see?" If your child sees clouds in the sky, ask, "What do they look like?" See if your child can spot a cloud that looks like an animal, a tree or someone with a beard. Then, take turns making up stories about where the clouds go when they float away or disappear. Ask, "What do you think lies above the clouds? What do you imagine?"



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Persistence

Help your child to continue to play with games and projects that take a while to complete. Puzzles, board games and sports activities are fun ways to encourage your child to remain with activities that involve several different steps.

**Tips for Families:**

- Give your child praise for each small step they accomplish
- Join your child when the task is taking too long
- Congratulate your child when the project is complete


Doing Puzzles: How do the pieces fit?

Doing a puzzle can take time and concentration. Creating and putting together puzzles helps your child learn to work towards completing a project.

- **Choose** interlocking puzzles that match your child's age and ability
- **Look** for puzzles at discount stores and yard sales, but make sure they are in good shape and that all the pieces are included
- **Visit** your library. Most libraries have wonderful puzzles that you can do while you are visiting or that you can borrow to take home.



Start with simple interlocking puzzles and move to more difficult puzzles when your child is ready. This will allow your child to experience success and avoid frustration.

Rhode Island Early Learning Standards**RI* Family Favorite****MEMORY GAME**

1. Cut ten index cards in half.
2. Draw the same picture, letter or number on two cards so that you have two matching cards.
3. Place all the cards on the floor with the pictures facing down.
4. Let your child turn over two cards at a time to try to find a match. If they do not match, turn them face down again and return them to their original spot.
5. Now it's your turn.
6. Once you find a match, take the two cards away and keep them by your side.
7. Take turns until all the matches are located.

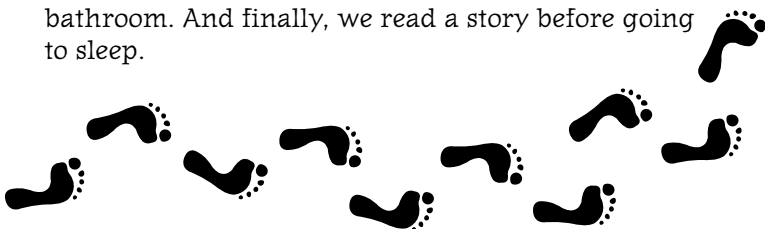
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One Two, Buckle My Shoe

Here are ways to encourage your child to organize themselves and solve problems on their own.

Encourage your child to be self-organized as they go about daily routines, get ready to play and clean up after themselves.

1. Create places for your child to put their toys, clothes and other items. Label these places with the name of the item and a picture.
2. Set the table together. Start by placing the correct number of chairs around the table. Have your child count out the number of plates, napkins, forks and spoons that will be needed and help set the table.
3. When getting ready for bed, have your child begin to see it as a step-by-step process. First, we take off our clothes and put them in the hamper. Then, we put on our PJs. Next, we brush our teeth and use the bathroom. And finally, we read a story before going to sleep.

**Rhode Island Early Learning Standards****RI* Family Favorite****MAKE A PICTURE SCHEDULE**

Make a picture schedule to help your child with their daily routines.

- Take pictures with your camera or cut pictures from magazines that show each step you want your child to complete
- Put your pictures in the right order and make a poster
- Ask your child to follow the pictures when getting ready in the morning, preparing for bed or completing other routines at home

Solving Problems

Throughout the day you can build your child's reasoning and problem solving skills. Encourage your child to think about different ways to solve problems. Here are some examples:

- The bathtub water has gotten too cold. "What do we do?"
- There is one cookie left for two people. "How can we solve this so everyone is happy?"
- "What would you do if you couldn't find mommy on the playground?" These skills can be extremely important in possible real life situations.